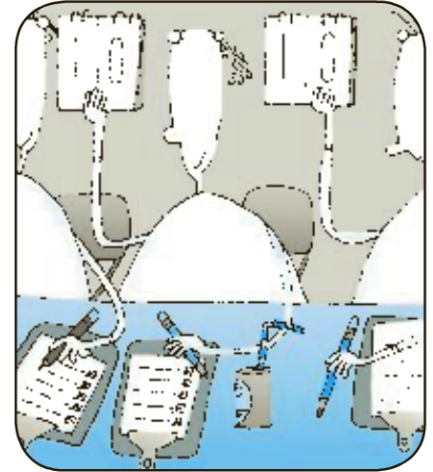


# Perfect Tenses

At times, the action you want to express isn't clearly a present, past, or future action. For example, let's say that you began cleaning your messy locker five days ago and you are still cleaning it. Your cleaning is neither a past action nor a present action. Instead, it is an ongoing action. In this type of situation, you need to use one of the three perfect tenses to state the action. Note the use of the perfect tenses in the following sentences. The verb in each sentence is in color. (See 774.1–774.3 in *Texas Write Source* for more examples.)



## Examples

*Present Perfect Tense:*

The amusement park **has remained** my favorite place to spend a summer day.

*Past Perfect Tense:*

Before this year, the Monster ride **had frightened** me.

*Future Perfect Tense:*

After this summer, I **will have visited** the park for six straight years.

## Directions

Using *Texas Write Source*, answer the following questions about the perfect tenses.

1. A verb in the *present perfect tense* expresses action that \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. A verb in the *past perfect tense* expresses action that \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. A verb in the *future perfect tense* expresses action that \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Directions

Underline the verb twice in each of these sentences. Don't forget to underline helping verbs as well. In the space provided, label each verb as "present perfect," "past perfect," or "future perfect." The first one has been done for you.

- present perfect 1. Ned Frap, the ruler of the planet, has escaped in a spacepod.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2. An earthquake had leveled his plastic dome.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3. He will have used all his energy pellets before nightfall.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Ned had lived in his dome for six years.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 5. In those six years, he had never gone outside.

## Directions

Underline the verb twice in each of the following sentences. Then rewrite each sentence by changing the verb to the tense indicated in parentheses. Remember that all perfect tenses are composed of a form of *have* plus the past participle of the main verb. The first one has been done for you.

1. The Phantom Blur prepares very carefully for the mission. (*present perfect*)  
The Phantom Blur has prepared very carefully for the mission.
2. He sneaks into embassies, castles, and prisons. (*present perfect*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tomorrow, the Phantom Blur will attempt a new mission. (*future perfect*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. At first, he considered the mission a pushover. (*past perfect*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Perhaps by tomorrow night he will change his mind. (*future perfect*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Step** Write your own science fiction story in several paragraphs. Use present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect tenses at least two times each in your story and underline each verb and helping verb. Share your finished story with the class by reading it aloud. Have students identify the verbs and their tenses.